

What is claimed is:

- 1           1.    A method comprising:  
2                causing a first device to establish a connection with a  
3                second device, enabling a data transaction between the first  
4                device and the second device;  
5                determining if a time-related event has occurred since  
6                establishing the connection between the first device and the  
7                second device;  
8                terminating the connection between the first device and  
9                the second device at a time based on the occurrence of the  
10               time-related event; and  
11               reestablishing a connection between the first device and  
12               the second device, enabling another data transaction.  
13  
14           2.    The method of claim 1 in which the time-related  
15               event is lapsing of a threshold period of time.  
16  
17           3.    The method of claim 2 further comprising setting a  
18               timer when the connection is established between the first  
19               device and the second device.  
20  
21           4.    The method of claim 3 in which determining if the  
22               time-related event has occurred includes determining if the  
23               timer has clocked the threshold period of time since the

4 connection was established between the first device and the  
5 second device.

1 5. The method of claim 1 in which the data transaction  
2 includes determining if the second device has data available  
3 for transmission across a network to the first device and if  
4 data is available, transmitting the data to the first device.

1 6. The method of claim 5 further comprising, if data is  
2 not available, terminating the connection between the first  
3 device and the second device.

1 7. The method of claim 1 further comprising requesting  
2 that the second device complete the data transaction before  
3 determining if the time-related event has occurred since  
4 establishing the connection between the first device and the  
5 second device.

1 8. The method of claim 7 in which requesting that the  
2 second device complete the data transaction includes  
3 requesting that the second device delete data.

1 9. The method of claim 1 further comprising, if the  
2 time-related event has not occurred, determining if the second  
3 device has data available for transmission to the first  
4 device.

1           10. The method of claim 1 further comprising  
2           establishing a connection across a network between the first  
3           device and the second device.

1           11. An article comprising:  
2           a machine-readable medium which stores machine-executable  
3           instructions, the instructions causing a machine to:

4                 cause a first device to establish a connection with  
5           a second device, enabling a data transaction with the second  
6           device;

7                 determine if a time-related event has occurred since  
8           establishing the connection between the first device and the  
9           second device;

10                terminate the connection between the first device  
11           and the second device at a time based on the occurrence of the  
12           time-related event; and

13                reestablish a connection between the first device  
14           and the second device, enabling another data transaction.

1           12. The article of claim 11 in which the time-related  
2           event is lapsing of a threshold period of time.

1           13. The article of claim 12 further causing a machine to  
2           set a timer when the connection is established between the  
3           first device and the second device.

1           14. The article of claim 13 in which determining if the  
2 time-related event has occurred includes determining if the  
3 timer has clocked the threshold period of time since the  
4 connection was established between the first device and the  
5 second device.

1           15. The article of claim 11 in which the data  
2 transaction includes determining if the second device has data  
3 available for transmission across a network to the first  
4 device and if data is available, transmitting the data to the  
5 first device.

1           16. The article of claim 15 further causing a machine  
2 to, if data is not available, terminate the connection between  
3 the first device and the second device.

1           17. The article of claim 11 further causing a machine to  
2 request that the second device complete the data transaction  
3 before determining if the time-related event has occurred  
4 since establishing the connection between the first device and  
5 the second device.

1           18. The article of claim 11 in which requesting that the  
2 second device complete the data transaction includes  
3 requesting that the second device delete data.

1           19. The article of claim 11 further causing a machine  
2 to, if the time-related event has not occurred, determine if  
3 the second device has data available for transmission to the  
4 first device.

1           20. The article of claim 11 further causing a machine to  
2 establish a connection across a network between the first  
3 device and the second device.

1           21. An apparatus comprising:  
2           a first device configured to connect to a network;  
3           an application accessible by the first device and  
4 configured to communicate with a second device configured to  
5 connect to the network; and  
6           a mechanism accessible by the first device and configured  
7 to, after the first device completes a data-related  
8 transaction with the second device across the network,  
9 determine if a time-related event has occurred since the first  
10 device established a connection with the second device and if  
11 so, trigger the termination of the connection.

1           22. The apparatus of claim 21 in which the time-related  
2 event is lapsing of a threshold period of time.

1           23. The apparatus of claim 21 in which the mechanism is  
2 also configured to start a timer when the first device

3 establishes a connection with the second device and to check  
4 the timer to determine if the time-related event has occurred  
5 since the first device established the connection with the  
6 second device.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 21 in which the mechanism is  
2 also configured to trigger establishment of a new connection  
3 between the first device and the second device after the  
4 connection is terminated.

1 25. A system comprising:  
2 a server device configured to connect to a network and to  
3 store data;  
4 a client device configured to connect to the network and  
5 to retrieve data stored at the server device; and  
6 a mechanism accessible by the client device and  
7 configured to, after the client device has retrieved data  
8 stored at the server device, determine if a time-related event  
9 has occurred since the client device established a connection  
10 with the server device and if so, trigger the termination of  
11 the connection.

1 26. The system of claim 25 in which the data includes an  
2 electronic mail message.

1           27. The system of claim 25 in which the network includes  
2 the Internet.

1           28. The system of claim 25 further comprising a  
2 mechanism accessible by the server device and configured to,  
3 after the connection is terminated, delete the data retrieved  
4 by the client device.

1           29. The system of claim 25 in which the mechanism  
2 accessible by the client device is also configured to trigger  
3 establishment of a new connection between the client device  
4 and the server device after the connection is terminated.